



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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NEWS ADVISORY

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Corps warns public to avoid lake side of Fort Randall spillway

Pickstown, S.D. – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to remind boaters to stay away from the lake side of the spillway at Lake Francis Case.

As an additional precautionary measure, the Corps has placed buoys along the lake to mark the unsafe areas where the current could pull disabled boats or swimmers toward the spillway gates. “We ask that boaters respect this warning and stay out of the restricted area between the spillway and the buoy line,” said Tom Curran, Operations Manager for the Fort Randall Project Office.

This boating advisory is issued under the authority of 33 CFR Part 327.12a. It is a precautionary restriction and notice relating to safety for the protection of life and property. It is not a prohibition on the use of vessels on Fort Randall Reservoir.

While the Corps recognizes that the record releases flowing through the spillway are bringing large number of visitors to the lake, the public must remain in authorized viewing areas

“We are seeing lots of woody debris floating along the river, which could make boating dangerous,” said Curran. “Safety is our number one priority and we want the public to be aware of the debris and other underwater hazards while boating on the lake.”

Boaters are encouraged to use extreme caution and be on the lookout for floating logs and other debris on the lake. This debris could appear at any location on the lake and could be submerged. All vessels on the lake should be operated at reduced speeds and operators should be vigilant about watching for debris. Life jackets should be worn by all persons in the vessel, including the operator.

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You can also find flood inundation maps and local emergency management contact information on or social media sites and at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil>. View daily and forecasted reservoir and river information on the Water Management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at <http://nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc>.

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